

REMARKS

Status of the Claims.

Claims 5-8 are pending with entry of this amendment, claims 1-4, and 9-10 being cancelled, and no claims being added herein. Claims 5, 6, 7, and 8 are amended herein. These amendments introduce no new matter. Support is replete throughout the specification (e.g., in the claims as filed, at page 9, lines 19-20, and so forth).

Allowable subject matter.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 6 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6 and 8 are so amended herein, and consequently, Applicants believe these claims are in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 5 and 7 incorporate the limitations of claims 6 and 8 and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §102 and §103.

In view of the amendments made herein in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants believe the presently pending claims are free of the cited art and therefore in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner seek to maintain the rejections, Applicants request a telephone interview with the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor.

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (510) 769-3513.

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Respectfully submitted,



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